

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
N	479



wn Lexington

dress 23 Bloomfield Street

storic Name Josiah H. Ingalls House

e: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

ite 1884

twin of house c. that date

Source inscribed

Style Queen Anne

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior wall fabric clapboards, shingles

Outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_

Major alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

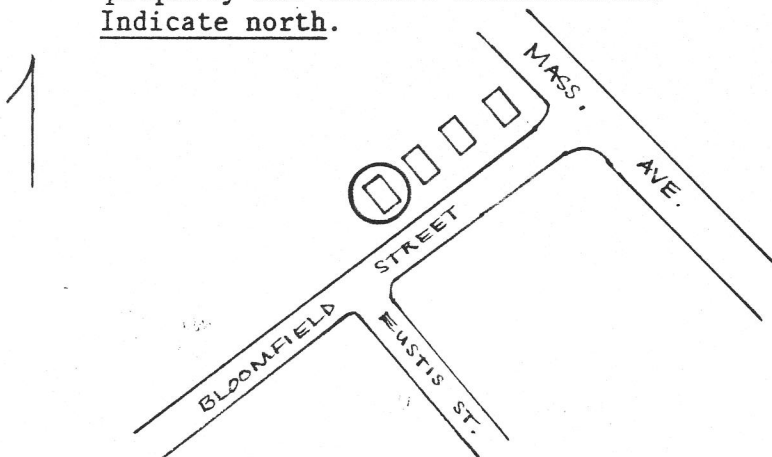
Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. acreage 47196 ft.<sup>2</sup>

Setting Residential street developed primarily in the 1870s and 1880s; there is some later infill.

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date March, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

This ~~four square~~ structure is embellished with Queen Anne features including polygonal entrance porch with turned posts, small panes of colored glass surrounding a large pane in the windows, bay window, and entrance placed on the diagonal of front right corner. The patterned shingle treatment of the gable is characteristic of Bloomfield Street houses of the 1880s. This house is a mirror image of 56 Bloomfield Street, on which the date 1884 was found inscribed under a clapboard.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

The house was owned and occupied by 1867 by Josiah H. Ingalls, a piano tuner in Cambridge.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

1887 Directory

1894 Directory

1889 atlas

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town Property Address  
LEXINGTON 23 BLOOMFIELD ST.

Area(s) Form No.

N

479

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

This house was bought by Josiah Ingalls of Cambridge, a piano tuner, in October 1884. It is described as "one of Mr. Norris' new houses on Bloomfield Street". According to the brief article, Ingalls negotiated for Mr. Prosser's House (16 Bloomfield?) but did not buy it as had been previously reported (*Lexington Minute-Man*, October 17, 1884).

John L. Norris developed much of the Bloomfield Street area (Area N) in the 1880s. He became a resident of Lexington in March 1872 and initially lived at 1430 Mass. Ave. before constructing a new house in the neighborhood (1404 Mass. Ave?) in 1885. He was a contractor and builder and a trustee of the Lexington Savings Bank. In August 1886 alone he had sold four lots near Bloomfield Street.

In 1907 the Ingalls House was sold to Ellis W. Tower, who worked in Boston. Winslow and Dorothy Tower owned it from 1955 to 1983.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*. Cambridge: The Riverside Press Co., 1913, vol. 2, p. 496.  
Lexington Directories, various dates.  
*Lexington Minute-Man*, October 17, 1884; July 27, 1907.  
Middlesex County Register of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.  
1898 Atlas.

Supplement prepared by:  
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